1: Burrows--150 (1947-48) Woleaians
116, 642 Ifalik

"An attempt to compare the government of Ifalik and that of the United States is interesting, though the data do not permit doing it with scientific rigor. In form the government of Ifalik is strictly aristocratic. In practise it is quite democratic, in the sense that every individual gets a chance to express his opinion and can make sure that it will be heard and considered by those in power. Perhaps any form of government would be democratic, in practise, with so small a population, unless there were rigid class distinctions.

The government of the United States, in form, is strictly democratic. In practise, as all citizens seem to agree, it falls far short of that ideal. Again, size and complexity are obviously a main factor.

If democracy in practise is the goal to aim at, there seems to be no reason to change the traditional form of local government. All the more, in view of the remarkable degree to which the people observe their laws. There is, on the other hand, a strong reason against attempting such a change. Any form of government foreign to their traditions would be confusing and disturbing. It would lead to difficulties that would probably extend into matters remote from government, so that some of them could hardly be foreseen. Pretty surely, for a long time at least, it would not work as well as the established system."